

MARCH 2024



EBENEZER KAZUNGULA

NEWS



March has been a celebratory month as we graduated all of our apprentices! On the 22nd March we gathered with parents, friends, community leaders and church representatives to mark the occasion. There was a lovely atmosphere as 10 first years graduated from the year-long Intermediate Course and 8 second years completed the two-year Advanced Course. We enjoyed plenty of dancing and some excellent speeches from graduates Youngson and Likando. We were also grateful to have His Royal Highness Chief Musokotwane as our guest of honour, who congratulated our graduates and challenged them to utilise their learning and skills as they leave Ebenezer. It was wonderful to have past graduates join us as well as team members from Ebenezer Zimbabwe and our past team leader Moses Phiri and his family.



Of course our graduation involved a celebratory feast shared with all our guests. And later in the evening, the apprentices on site enjoyed a special graduation cake, shared with Clint and Carolyn Misdorp, new members of the team who are managing Sunrise farm and getting involved in Ebenezer leadership!



Of our 10 graduating first years, we will be welcoming back 6 into second year in June. In the meantime they are rotating in groups to keep up our current production and also take the opportunity to visit home and have a break!



With the end of our Ebenezer year in March, we also brought to a close our current training modules and series of Family Nights. Our Family Nights over the past couple of months have been precious times of sharing together and praying for those graduating and leaving Ebenezer. Our gatherings have also involved good food - pizzas, pancakes and braais! - fun activities such as making our own family banners, and some engaging creative prayer exercises.

PRODUCTION

This month the president declared the current drought in Zambia as a national emergency, with food production severely diminished. Along with other farmers, we have suffered a lack of rainfall and seen our crops struggle as a result. Facing such conditions, we have been grateful for our drought-tolerant sunflower crop which is showing signs that it will give us a good harvest!

Our kitchen garden is also showing signs of productivity, despite some damage from pests. We are preparing our nurseries for tomato, rape and pumpkin leaves.

It has also been good to see our fruit trees planted back in 2022 growing well. We planted these to mark our first Advanced Graduation, and it looks like we will soon be enjoying their fruit!

Intermediate apprentice, Moses, has been shining in his broiler production. Taking care of 4,420 birds which he placed this month, he has seen a low mortality of 1.2% and good weight gain in his chicks.

Our layer section has seen an improvement in lay-rate this month, from 79% to 89% at a flock age of 44 weeks. In total our birds produced 107 trays of eggs this month.

